

CLAIMS

A computer implemented method of instantly alerting a remotely located vehicle owner
 of a situation requiring owner intervention comprising the steps of:

detecting receipt of an external message to an IP address of an onboard vehicle client; in response to said detecting, causing said onboard vehicle client to locate an IP address supplied by said owner; and

forwarding said external message to said owner IP address.

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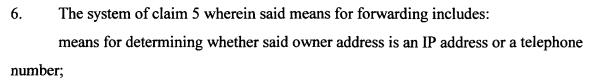
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said causing step includes: retrieving from a storage location in said onboard vehicle client a most recently supplied owner IP address.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said forwarding step includes: sending an instant message to a device having said owner IP address.
- 4. An information handling system for instantly alerting a remotely located vehicle owner of a situation requiring owner intervention comprising:

means for detecting receipt of an external message to an IP address of an onboard vehicle client;

means, active in response to said means for detecting, for causing said onboard vehicle client to locate an IP address supplied by said owner; and

- 25 means for forwarding said external message to said owner IP address.
 - The system of claim 4 wherein said means for causing includes:
 means for retrieving from a storage location in said onboard vehicle client a most recently supplied owner address.

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means, responsive to said owner address being an IP address, for sending an instant 5 message to a device having said owner IP address; and

means, responsive to said owner address being a telephone number, for calling said number.

- 7. The system of claim 6 wherein said device is a cell phone.
- 8. The system of claim 6 wherein said device is a personal digital assistant.
- 9. A computer program product for instantly alerting a remotely located vehicle owner of a situation requiring owner intervention comprising:

means for detecting receipt of an external message to an IP address of an onboard vehicle client;

means, active in response to said means for detecting, for causing said onboard vehicle client to locate an address supplied by said owner; and

means for forwarding said external message to said owner address.

10. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said means for causing includes: means for retrieving from a storage location in said onboard vehicle client a most recently supplied owner address.



- The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said means for forwarding includes: 11. means for determining whether said owner address is an IP address or a telephone number;
- means, responsive to said owner address being an IP address, for sending an instant message to a device having said owner IP address; and

means, responsive to said owner address being a telephone number, for calling said telephone number.

10 12. An information handling system including a plurality of Internet enabled clients and a vehicle alert server, said server comprising:

means for detecting transmission of a message from a first client addressed to a second client;

means for determining from said second client an address for a third client; and means for sending said message to said third client.

- 13. The information handling system of claim 12 additionally including: means for verifying receipt of said message by said third client.
- 14. The information handling system of claim 13 additionally comprising: means responsive to said means for verifying for teratively activating said means for determining, means for sending and means for verifying until said means for verifying indicate 25 affirmative receipt.
 - 15. The system of claim 12 wherein said second client is an onboard vehicle computer in a vehicle.
- The system of claim 15 wherein said first client is a third party external to said vehicle. 30 16.

- 17. The system of claim 16 wherein said third client is remote from said vehicle and accessible to an owner of said vehicle.
- 18. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for detecting includes:
- 5 means for interpreting whether said message is addressed to an IP address containing a license plate number matching that of said vehicle.
- 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said means for determining comprises:
 means for mapping said address into a list of previously supplied owner addresses for
 10 finding a forwarding address for use by said means for sending.
 - 20. The system of claim 19 wherein said means for sending comprises: means for sending said message over the Internet if said forwarding address is an IP address; and

means for sending said message using a wireless application protocol if said forwarding address is a telephone number.

- 21. The system of claim 20 wherein said means for sending additionally comprises a Push mechanism.
- 22. A method implemented in an information handling system including a plurality of Internet enabled clients and a vehicle alert server, comprising:
- detecting transmission of a message from a first client addressed to a second client;

 determining from said second client an address for a third client; and
 sending said message to said third client.
 - 23. The method of claim 22 additionally including: verifying receipt of said message by said third client.



24. The method of claim 23 additionally comprising:

means for iteratively repeating said determining, sending and verifying steps until an affirmative response is obtained.